



**U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement**

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# News Release

## **5 CHARGED WITH TRAFFICKING OPIUM FROM LAOS**

***DHS finds, investigates 30 lbs. of drug found soaked into fabric packed in luggage***

MINNEAPOLIS—As a result of an seizure and investigation by Department of Homeland Security officers and special agents, five people were charged Monday with attempting to smuggle approximately 30 pounds of opium from Laos to Woodbury, Minn. via Atlanta.

The drug had been soaked into fabric packed in the personal luggage of two of the women charged.

“The Department of Homeland Security and its law enforcement partners will to do everything possible to choke off the flow of illegal drugs coming into this country and into this state,” said Special Agent-in-Charge Mark Cangemi of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Cangemi oversees the enforcement of immigration and customs laws in a five-state area that includes Minnesota.

Jack Vue and Or Vue, both of Woodbury, made an initial appearance Monday afternoon in U.S. District Court for the District of Minnesota and were charged the same day in U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia with three counts of importing a controlled substance, possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance, and conspiracy to traffic illegal drugs.

Susan Thempmang Sisakda, Vongmath Thongliane and Khamphanh Sisakda were charged with the same crimes at the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia in Atlanta Monday,

The investigation began Wednesday when, according to court documents, Customs and Border Protection officers at Hartsfield International Airport in Atlanta seized approximately 30 pounds of opium that had been soaked into fabric and packed in the personal luggage of Susan Thempmang Sisakda and Vongmath Thongliane. Sisakda and Thongliane had just arrived on a Korean Airlines flight that had originated in Laos.

ICE special agents in Atlanta interviewed the women and determined that the opium was to be delivered to a home in Woodbury, Minn. A third individual, Khamphanh Sisakda, believed to be the

husband of Susan Sisakda, was waiting at the Atlanta airport to pick the two women up and drive them to Minnesota. Khamphan Sisakda was also arrested.

On Friday, Susan Sisakda drove to a private residence in Woodbury and delivered the luggage containing the opium to a woman at the house, Or Vue. ICE agents executed a federal search warrant at the house shortly thereafter and arrested Vue.

ICE agents determined that the owner of the houses, Jack Vue, was in Laos and was scheduled to fly from Laos to the Twin Cities the following day. ICE agents arrested Vue when he arrived at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport Saturday.

Assistant United States Attorney Richard Rice of U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is prosecuting the case.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security.*